6 "TELLING THERE TROUBLES IN THERE DELUSIONS": [cxxv] CASE FILES AS ARGUMENT

> you may never receive this lengthy document, but if you don't I hope that the censor's eyes may get sore making out all the scrible [sic]. (Miss Dickens, circa 1911)[cxxvi]

C.K. Clarke consistently argued that his "clinic" -- by which he variously meant a psychiatric hospital, a research facility, or a method of enquiry -- was a source of knowledge and that this knowledge served the patient. The way he argued this, and such case studies as the following, suggest a different relationship. Below I discuss a number of cases from the files of the Toronto Asylum, the majority of them cases of "dementia praecox." I wish to establish what Clarke's "individual approach" meant in terms of the way he and his colleagues approached this material, and the ways patients responded -- in other words, what it meant in terms of argument.

These files were selected primarily on the basis of their containing sufficient writing by patients and staff. All files from circa 1905 to 1911 were read, and every 5th box from 1911 till 1930. The information addresses mainly the "realities" of the Asylum during the period of C.K. Clarke's administration (roughly 1905-1911), and glances at the work of his successors till circa 1930.[cxxvii] The probability that some of the statements were "delusional" has to